

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, NO.72, MARCH 9, 1976
(SALT TWO-929)

1. ARTICLE VI.1(A) COMMON UNDERSTANDING (LAUNCHERS CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL). SOVIETS TABLED TEXT SIMILAR TO ONE PRESENTED AT MARCH 5 PLENARY AND EXPLAINED THAT SOVIET LANGUAGE SOUGHT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IF A LAUNCHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON MAY 26, 1972, IS A TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHER, THAT IS SUBJECT TO ARTICLE VII, IT WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED OPERATIONAL. US QUESTIONED NEED FOR THIS EXCEPTION.

2. DEFINITIONS OF THROW-WEIGHT AND LAUNCHING WEIGHT. SOVIETS TABLED REVISED DEFINITIONS. THEY MAINTAINED THAT DESCRIPTION OF LAUNCHING WEIGHT AS A COMBINATION OF TWO NOTIONS (THE WEIGHT OF THE MISSILE ITSELF AND THE MOMENT OF LAUNCHING). MADE PRECISE WHAT WOULD BE COUNTED. US QUESTIONED WHETHER THE WORD "ITSELF" WAS SUFFICIENT TO MAKE CLEAR HOW LAUNCH ASSIST DEVICES WOULD BE TREATED AND AGAIN EXPLAINED WHY "MOMENT OF IGNITION" WAS PREFERRABLE TERM. SOVIETS INFORMALLY SUGGESTED "LAUNCHING WEIGHT IS THE WEIGHT OF A FULLY-LOADED MISSILE ITSELF READY FOR
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LAUNCH". WITH RESPECT TO THROW-WEIGHT, US SOUGHT TO ADDRESS

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US TEXT WHICH USED "RV OR RVS" AND SOVIET TEXT WHICH USED "FRONT-END OR RVS." WHEN SOVIETS EXPLAINED THAT FRONT-END WAS ALL -INCLUSIVE CONCEPT, US ASKED WHETHER SOVIETS MEANT TO SAY "THROW-WEIGHT IS THE SUM OF THE WEIGHT OF THE FRONT-END, THAT IS RVS..."

3. ARTICLE XIX.1 PROTOCOL. THE SIDES EXCHANGED JDT TEXTS AND AGREED THAT THEY WERE APPROVED AD REFERENDUM TO CHIEFS OF DELEGATION.

4. ARTICLE II.5 (MIRV DEFINITION). SOVIETS TABLED A REVISED DEFINITION AND AGREED STATEMENT WHICH WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

5. ARTICLE IV.4 AGREED STATEMENT (MEANING OF ORIGINAL). SOVIETS PRESENTED AS A NON-PAPER A STATEMENT WHICH STATED THAT "ORIGINAL" REFERS TO THE INTERNAL DIMENSIONS, "INCLUDING VOLUME," THEREBY WEDDING THE US AND SOVIET PROPOSALS. JOHNSON

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NNN

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